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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/527,644	03/14/2005	Andrea Caserta	044514-0020	7073

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EXAMINER

PAIK, SANG YEOP

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3742

DATE MAILED: 03/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/527,644

Applicant(s)

CASERTA ET AL.

Examiner

Sang Y. Paik

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 9-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 9-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/26/05, 3/14/05.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 9-13, 16, 19, and 26-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zobe et al (US 6,775,470) or Martin et al (US 5,945,094).

Zobe et al or Martin shows the electric device claimed including a support body, an external plug, a flat wick, a heater element situated close to the flat wick in a safe housing, a container comprising a reservoir with a flat extension having a depression to house a flat part of the wick, and a flat impermeable strip bonded to the container. Zobe et al and Martin show that the reservoir is of a rectangular configuration with a rectangular shaped wick, but they do not show that the reservoir is of a triangular configuration.

While Zobe et al nor Martin shows the claimed triangular reservoir with the claim Y-shaped wick, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to adapt Zobe et al or Martin with the reservoir taking the shape of a triangular shape with a Y-shaped wick or any other shapes as long as the wick is positioned along side with the heating element so that an effective heat can be transferred from the heating element to the wick since the applicant also allows the wick to have other alternative wick geometry as long as a central portion of the wick correspond to the warming or evaporation area.

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3. Claims 14, 15, 17, 18, and 20-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zobebe '470 or Martin as applied to claims 9-13, 16, 19, and 26-28 above, and further in view of Zobebe et al (EP 1 270 021).

Zobebe '470 or Martin shows the device claimed except the impermeable strip with a hole and a sealing strip to be removed.

Zobebe '021 shows a reservoir with an impermeable strip with a hole which is also covered with an adhesively attached sealing strip over the hole that would later be removed when the device is activated.

In view of Zobebe '021, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to adapt Zobebe '470 or Martin, with the claimed impermeable strip with a hole and the a sealing strip to facilitate a good dispersion of the volatile material in the reservoir with the heating element through the hole and to keep the volatile material with the sealing strip within the reservoir until the device is ready for use.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sang Y. Paik whose telephone number is 571-272-4783. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:00-4:00) First Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robin Evans can be reached on 571-272-4777. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Sang Y Paik
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3742

syp